

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02904 301605Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 /025 W  
-----041961 301621Z /53  
O 301530Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 438

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2904

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FOR: USIA FOR IOP/M AND ILA, STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CUVA IN AFRICA

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE  
DAILY NEWS OF MARCH 30

BEGIN TEXT: THERE ARE GROWING INDICATIONS THAT CUBA WILL  
BE INCREASING ITS ASSISTNCE TO THE LIBERATION FORCES NOW WAGING  
WAR AGAINST THE RACIST AND ILLEGAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE BRITISH  
COLONY OF RHODESIA.

REPORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES HAVE QUOTED WESTERN  
INTERESTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS AS EXPRESSING "FEARS" AT THE  
PROSPECT OF CUBAN ASSISTANCE IN FREEING THE PEOPLE OF  
ZIMBABWE.

BUT WHILE THIS CONCERN CAN BE APPRECIATED WITHIN THE CONTEXT  
OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD'S CONTINUED FIGHT FOR CONTROL AND  
INFLUENCE OVER THE POOR COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, FOR THE  
OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, FOR INSTANCE, THE PROSPECT OF  
CUBAN ASSISTANCE IN THEIR LIBERATION STRUGGLES WILL BE  
INTERPRETED IN A MUCH DIFFERENT LIGHT.

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WHEN ALL THE SHOOTING AND THE SHOUTING HAS DIED DOWN IT  
IS LIKELY THAT WHAT WILL STICK MOST IN THE MINDS OF THE THEN  
FREE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE IS THE FACT THAT ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE  
WAS BOLD ENOUGH TO COME TO THEIR ASSISTANCE.

WHAT THEY WILL REMEMBER OF THOSE WHO NOW EXPRESS THESE

"FEARS" AND "CONCERN" WILL BE THAT THEY STOOD ON THE OTHER SIDE, OFFERED LUKEWARM VOCAL SUPPORT, BUT DID LITTLE ELSE TO AID THE PROCESS OF LIBERATION. THERE HAS BEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY CUBA TO THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA AND WHICH WAS DECRIED BY THE WESTERN WORLD, BUT WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE LIBERATION OF THAT COUNTRY.

TO THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, THE ANSWER OF THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES TO PRESIDENT NETO'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE MUST HAVE APPEARED A GODSEND.

IT WILL TAKE MUCH MORE THAN THE "FEARS" OF WESTERN DIPLOMATS TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA THAT THE CUBANS WERE NOT THEIR ONLY FRIENDS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THOSE WHO ARE NOW "FEARFUL" FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE OTHER SIDE IN COLLUSION WITH RACIST SOUTH AFRICA, AND MERCENARIES FROM NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE.

SO THESE WHO FEEL "FEARFUL" OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN HELP TO THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION ARMY SHOULD ATTEMPT, BEFORE THEY COMMENT FROM THEIR PIGEONHOLES, TO PUT THEMSELVES AT LEAST IN THE POSITION OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

WHO WILL BE REMEMBERED AFTER THE SHOOTING AND THE SHOUTING?  
END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: CUBA IN AFRICA FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE DAILY NEWS OF MARCH 30  
**TAGS:** SOPN, JM  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/76dd0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014